

When I was a State representative, we worked very closely to pass GEMT legislation. I am very proud we got that done.

Madam Speaker, I know I speak for the entire Hiawatha community in saying that we are so thankful for Chief Nesslage's years of selfless service and dedication to keeping Hiawatha safe.

I thank Chief Nesslage and wish him and his family the best as they begin this new chapter.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to now serve Chief Nesslage in Congress, and I appreciate his service.

RECOGNIZING THE 71ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, "Our Nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met." This is the quote you will find at our Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, I rise today, on the 71st anniversary of the Korean war, to honor the more than 5.7 million Americans who served, including the 2.25 million Korean war veterans alive today, and to remember the more than 36,000 Americans and 1 million South Korean civilians and soldiers who gave their lives to protect freedom.

As an immigrant from South Korea whose family lived through the Korean war, and as a wife and sister of veterans, I know that I am here because of the sacrifices of our brave Korean war veterans.

This is personal to me. Words alone cannot express how grateful I am.

Freedom is not free, and each of you stands as a reminder of our Nation's commitment to freedom and to the safety and security of our allies in South Korea.

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EROSION IN ORANGE COUNTY

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that is extremely important for my Orange County community.

This week, my district braced for extreme high tides that presented another flood risk to Newport Beach. City workers raised sand berms on the Balboa Peninsula and handed out sandbags to residents, hoping to avoid another flood like the one we experienced last July.

One Newport Beach resident this week said, "I have lived here for 10 years. I have never seen the bay so high or the ocean so high this early and before high tide." This risk of flood in our communities is real.

This week, Lieutenant General Spellmon from the Army Corps said that erosion in our community was not unique. I agree that this is an issue all around California, but the difference is Orange County's problem was brought on by the Federal, man-made projects that permanently stopped natural sand flow onto our beaches.

The Army Corps created this issue, and it is their job to ensure the final stages of sand replenishment are made a priority. The safety of our communities is at risk, and we are one natural disaster away from devastating damage.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work with local stakeholders to call on the Army Corps to fix the problem they made.

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise.

Madam Speaker, I rise today not to speak of persons who die unjustly at the hands of the constabulary, I rise today to speak of members of the constabulary who die unjustly at the hands of persons who are among what we call "the public."

I rise today to accentuate five words: "In the line of duty."

These words may be meaningless to some, but there are those who have suffered the pain of having to live with these words for the rest of their lives after having lost someone that they love in the line of duty.

Emily Dickinson, the great American poet, reminds us that, "A word is dead when it is said, some say. I say it just begins to live that day." These words take on meaning for those who are left behind when someone leaves in the line of duty.

I am standing here today in the House to make an appeal to those who have thoughts of doing dastardly deeds simply because a person happens to be a part of the constabulary.

I would beg that you not consider these thoughts, that you abandon them. And I would beg that if you have the opportunity to go to one of the homegoing ceremonies of a person who has left in the line of duty—I have been to these ceremonies. I have seen the suffering of the families, the tears. I have seen the children who will no longer have a parent to go home to.

All life is precious. I have spoken many times about the lives that have been lost at the hands of the constabulary, but we should never forget that all lives are precious.

And when someone takes the life of a member of the constabulary out of spite, for no cause that can be justified, that person, of course, has to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

But that doesn't end the suffering, just as it doesn't end the suffering for the civilian who loses his or her life. It doesn't end the suffering and the pain.

We ought not allow ourselves to become so removed from the lives of others that we cease to have some degree of sympathy and empathy for persons who lose their lives in the line of duty.

If a person finds some degree of comfort in knowing that a person lost life in the line of duty, then you must be a sadist. It is a sadistic thing to conclude that a life lost in the line of duty is something that you can take some degree of pleasure with. You need help.

And I am saying these words today. I am calling this to the attention of people that I don't know, but I know what my staff has reported to me, about persons who lost their lives in the line of duty, and how this number is ticking up, and how many of these lives were lost senselessly.

Madam Speaker, we must respect all life. I believe that we have a responsibility to those that we will never meet and greet, to say to the world that we disapprove of this senseless taking of life as it relates to those in the constabulary. And I am talking about those who are just sitting in a car and someone comes along and takes a life of a person serving in the line of duty.

My uncle was a deputy sheriff. I had great respect for him. I conclude that I am who I am today because of words that my uncle said. My uncle and I were in his police vehicle, and I was asking a lot of questions. And my uncle's words were, "This boy is asking a lot of questions. I think he is going to be a lawyer." I didn't know what a lawyer was, but I respected my uncle's words. And because I had such respect for him at a very young age—I was less than 10 years of age—I concluded that I shall be a lawyer—perhaps not in those words—but I concluded that I would be a lawyer.

So all of my life from that point forward was dedicated to becoming a lawyer because my uncle, the deputy sheriff—well-respected—proclaimed that I would be a lawyer. I thank God that he didn't say, "You know, this boy is asking a lot of questions. I don't think he is going to amount to anything. He doesn't know anything."

A word is not dead when it is said. I remember when my uncle died, deputy sheriff, well-respected. I didn't make it to his funeral. I was in the sky over Louisiana on a plane trying to get there, and we were forced out of the sky by an act of God. Destined to stay overnight in Lafayette, I missed his funeral, and I missed him.

Madam Speaker, I want people to know that we who seek justice for those who have been treated unjustly, we don't do it out of some desire to see justice for one. I do it because I desire to seek justice for all. I know what "in the line of duty" means to people, and I know what my uncle meant to me.

Madam Speaker, today, I tell my dear friends, I stand here in the House